

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: QUOTAS ON STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE

1. HEADNOTE 2(C) TO PART 2, SUBPART D OF THE APPENDIX TO THE TARIFF SCHEDULES OF THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES THAT "AS PROMPTLY AS PRACTICABLE IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE APPARENT UNITED STATES CONSUMPTION OF KNIVES, FORKS AND SPOONS WITH STAINLESS STEEL HANDLES DURING THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR AND SHALL REPORT SUCH DETERMINATION TO THE PRESIDENT. SUB-PARAGRAPH (B) (II) OF THAT HEADNOTE PROVIDES, IN EFFECT, THAT THE LOW-RATE QUANTITY UNDER THE PRESENT TARIFF ARRANGEMENT MAY BE INCREASED, WHENEVER DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION INCREASES, BUT NOT BY MORE THAN 6 PERCENT AND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED CONDITIONS. FOLLOWING A REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE ABOVE PROVISIONS ADVISING THAT IN 1973 DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF FLATWARE HAD INCREASED BY 12 PERCENT OVER 1972, THE PRESIDENT MADE A DETERMINATION THAT THE LOW-RATE QUANTITY FROM EACH SOURCE WAS TO BE INCREASED BY 6 PERCENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1974, THE OPENING OF THE NEW TARIFF RATE

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QUOTA YEAR. THE JAPANESE FLATWARE MANUFACTURERS DID, AT

THAT TIME, EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF A CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING TARIFF ARRANGEMENT.

2. THE COMMISSION IS NOW PREPARING ITS ANNUAL REPORT OF THE APPARENT UNITED STATES CONSUMPTION OF KNIVES, FORKS AND SPOONS WITH STAINLESS STEEL HANDLES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974. ITS DETERMINATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE WILL FORMULATE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT 1974 CONSUMPTION IS NOT LIKELY TO TURN OUT TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT

OF THE PRECEDING YEAR. THE PRESENT TARIFF SYSTEM WILL EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TARIFF QUOTA ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY JAPANESE OVERTURES THIS YEAR. MISSION SHOULD ASSURE TFA THAT THE VIEWS OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY REVIEW OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM. KISSINGER

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